

Message

From: SHOREN BROWN [SHOREN BROWN] Ex. 6 PII Shoren Brown
Sent: 2/16/2011 11:37:12 PM
To: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: GOP ENR: Murkowski Cautions EPA against overreaching with Bristol Bay watershed study

Unfortunately - yes.

On 2/16/11 3:35 PM, "Palmer Hough" <Hough.Palmer@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

>
> Have you seen this?
>
>
> (Embedded image moved to file: pic10405.jpg)
> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: ROBERT DILLON (202)
> 224-6977
> FEBRUARY 16, 2011 or MEGAN
> HERMANN (202) 224-7875
>
> Sen. Murkowski Cautions EPA Officials Against Overreaching with Bristol
> Bay Watershed Assessment
>
> WASHINGTON, D.C. In a letter sent today to the head of the
> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski,
> R-Alaska, cautioned the federal agency against overreaching in its
> assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed and prejudging any project prior
> to the release of a detailed development plan and the completion of a
> full scientific analysis of potential impacts.
>
> ³I believe the EPA should commit now to refraining from exercising a
> veto of development in the Bristol Bay area at any point prior to the
> full consideration of a permit application,² Murkowski said. ³Any effort
> by the agency to block responsible development before a project has even
> been proposed would be unprecedented and would have a chilling effect on
> the state's economy.²
>
> Opponents of the Pebble Mine petitioned the EPA to block the proposed
> development by preemptively vetoing any necessary Clean Water Act
> permits. In response, the agency earlier this month announced plans to
> assess the potential impacts of development on the Bristol Bay
> watershed.
>
> In the letter, Murkowski asked EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to provide
> greater detail on the agency's plan to review the potential impact of
> future development in the Bristol Bay region, including whether the
> assessment would consider the total value of the mineral and other
> natural resources in the region and whether the study would be submitted
> for peer review.
>
> Murkowski also asked whether the EPA has any concerns with the U.S. Army
> Corps of Engineers' current process for considering dredge or fill
> material permit applications.
>
> ³It's my hope that answers to these questions will provide a better
> indication of the direction the EPA is headed with this watershed

> assessment,² Murkowski said. ³I expect this process to be honest,
> transparent and inclusive. This must not be a check-the-box exercise
> that merely provides cover for the EPA to veto future permit
> applications.²
>
> Murkowski cited the EPA's recent retroactive veto of an already-approved
> West Virginia permit as prompting her concern over the agency's action
> overruling the Army Corps of Engineers on water discharge permits.
>
> ³A preemptive veto, just like a preemptive approval, would be based
> purely on speculation and conjecture and would deprive relevant
> government agencies, and all stakeholders, of the specifics needed to
> take an informed position,² Murkowski said.
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> The full letter to the EPA is attached.
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> For further information, please contact Robert Dillon at 202.224.6977 or
> Robert_dillon@energy.senate.gov or Megan Hermann at 202.224.7875 or
> megan_hermann@energy.senate.gov.
> Visit our website at <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>
>
>
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> (See attached file: 110216EPA letter release.doc)(See attached file:
> 2_16 Watershed Assmnt LTR.pdf)

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